

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: GORDON D. NOVEL
REPORTED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AGENTS
PERSONNEL MATTER

1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr
1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop

DATE: September 5, 1969

1 - Mr. N. P. Callahan
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

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b7C

Subject is suing HMH Publishing Company for libel arising out of "Playboy" magazine interview with New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison. In support of his suit, he has prepared a deposition which contains untrue and inaccurate allegations about his relationship with two Special Agents, [REDACTED] formerly assigned to New Orleans but now at WFO, and [REDACTED] still assigned in New Orleans. In effect, Novel alleged that he had an arrangement with these Agents for the exchange of information. Attorneys for HMH Publishing Company have requested permission to obtain depositions from Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] concerning the allegations of Novel.

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Memorandum W. A. Branigan to Mr. W. C. Sullivan, 8/12/69, recommended referring this request and the documents pertaining to it, including the affidavits of the two Special Agents wherein they refute the allegations, to the appropriate United States Attorney (USA) in Illinois, pursuant to pertinent portions of the Code of Federal Regulations. Chicago has now done this and reports that the USA has recommended to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, that both Agents be allowed to be deposed. The USA points out that Novel's statements reflect adversely on the integrity of the Bureau and can be refuted without the production of any material contained in Bureau files and without disclosing either confidential informants or investigative techniques.

OBSERVATIONS: Statements of the two Special Agents will refute Novel's untrue allegations. They could prevent unfavorable press criticism of the FBI, which might otherwise occur based upon Novel's unrefuted allegations, should he make these public.

ACTION: Attached for approval is letter to Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, that should the Department agree with the USA's recommendation, the Bureau will interpose no objection.

Enclosure

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